out absorbing the candidates who were in the 1986 panel; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therfor and what steps are being taken to give justice to the 1986 batch candidates who are becoming overaged now for other jobs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A total of 347 candidates were empanelled in 1986 for the post of loaders in Indian Airlines, Northern Region out of which, 135 candidates were offered appointment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Selection panels are valid for a period of 2 years and subject to availability of vacancies during the validity of the panel, empanelled candidates are offered apointment as per their seniority in the panel. As the validity of the 1986 panel had lapsed in 1988, a fresh panel was made on 20-11-1990.

Singareni Collieries under the control of CIL

937. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for giving Singareni Collieries under the control of "Coal India Limited"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) Government has, at present, no intention to bring Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. under the control of Coal Inlia Limited.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crash

938. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed on Friday, August 16, 1991 at Imphal;

(b) the likely causes of the accident and whether an inquiry has been ordered; and

(c) the casualties involved therein and the compensation paid to victims or their families?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Court of Inquiry under a Judge of the High Court is being constituted and the cause of the accident will be known only after the Court of Inquiry completes its investigation.

(c) There were 69 casualties including 6 cabin crew, 62 passengers and IV infant Indian Airlines will pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 5 lakhs per adult deceased passenger and Rs. 2.5 lakhs for the deceased infant.

Attracting Foreign Tourist

939. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report

captioned "Coordination: key to growth of tourism" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of July 25, 1991, stating that devaluation of the rupee would make India a cheap destination for foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what special steps are contemplated to explore and exploit the added potential for attracting foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to project in the overseas market, the competitiveness of Indian tourism product in the overseas markets.

Grounding of Boeing 707

940. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India Bombay edition, dated July 24, 1991, captioned "Airline with no destination", reporting that Boeing 707 belonging to the Bombay based 'Confidential Aviation' was parked in a corner of Nagpur Airport for about a month;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances under which the aircraft was so grounded; and

(c) what steps have been taken to put it on wing again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aircraft was grounded at Nagpur airport due to technical problems.

(c) The aircraft belongs to a private party, namely, M/s. Continental Aviation.

Privatisation of Oil Sector

941. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately been considering privatisation of certain areas in oil sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals in this regard and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Private Sector participation to a certain extent already exists in exploration, refining and marketing activities of the petroleum sector.

Navigational aids in North-Eastern Airports

942. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that navigational and communication aids in the North-Eastern Region are in appalling condition as per the news item entitled "Unreliable Navigational Aids" which appeared in the Times of India of the 19th August, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?